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Modifications of the Lethality Server for Initial RDEC Federation Integration

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Abstract

This report summarizes recent changes in the U.S. Army Research Laboratory distributed interactive simulation lethality communications server (the lethality server) and its integration into the Research, Development, and Engineering Center Federation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Research, Development, and Engineering Center (RDEC) Federation is a team effort. Although this report addresses only a single component (the distributed interactive simulation [DIS] lethality server), that component would not have been possible except for the support, contributions, and hard work of many individuals, a few of whom are mentioned here with the author's grateful thanks:

Special thanks to Janet Lacetera and Pat Jones of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and particularly to Paul Oxenberg, Aberdeen Test Center Virtual Proving Ground team leader, for vision, direction, and support in these efforts.

Mr. Richard Sandmeyer of ARL is thanked for his outstanding contributions in coordinating and administering ARL's overall effort with the RDEC Federation and for being a general "unsung hero" regarding modeling and simulation promotion at ARL.

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Greg Tackett and Nancy Boucher of the Armament, Munitions, and Chemical Command, Richard Pei of the Communications-Electronics Command, Michael Kelly of the Night Vision Laboratories, and too many more to list are thanked for managing and shouldering much of the unseen administrative navigation required in order to consolidate an effort such as the RDEC Federation.

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MODIFICATIONS OF THE LETHALITY SERVER FOR INITIAL RDEC FEDERATION INTEGRATION

1. Introduction

This report summarizes recent developments in Army modeling and simulation (M&S) objectives and capabilities, especially as they relate to U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) participation in the Research, Development, and Engineering Center (RDEC) Federation project. While this text touches on certain aspects of the RDEC Federation, it is not the author's intent or purpose to discuss or define the RDEC Federation. Instead, focus is on the ARL distributed interactive simulation (DIS) lethality communications server (the lethality server) and its integration into the RDEC Federation.

Although ARL has plans to implement a similar interface in its high fidelity survivability models, the lethality server system currently implements only pre-calculated tabular "look-up" vulnerability results. Factors influencing the implementation of the future higher fidelity interface are not addressed here.

2. The RDEC Federation

The purpose of the RDEC Federation is to support the Army's needs in the areas of design, development, testing, and validating future system concepts and virtual prototypes under the simulation-based acquisition (SBA)/simulation and modeling for acquisition research and training (SMART) process. To accomplish this, a set of applications is required to address specific areas of interest and to simulate them throughout the acquisition cycle. This is the dynamic aspect to the RDEC Federation. There is also a static (non-simulation run time) component.

2.1 Static Integration Component

The static component of the RDEC Federation is the set of items that basically are input to simulations. All participating systems (command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence systems, automotive, armaments, sensors, etc.) have data descriptions that are known before a simulation begins. These descriptions are the performance data (and other system descriptions such as vehicle geometries, terrain locations, scenario descriptions), along with the specifications for file formats, application versions, and other conventions that must be established before run time. This must be accomplished to establish a

baseline from which reasonable comparisons may be drawn and to maximize the collaborative possibilities among federation participants. However, the RDEC Federation environment is not just a static environment. While the static environment has value (e.g., to conduct engineering design trade-offs), it is not intended to stand alone. As previously stated, the static component provides input to the RDEC Federation's dynamic component.

2.2 Dynamic Interoperation Component

The dynamic component is the environment within which simulations are able to interact and dynamically affect each other and the environment itself in a continual feedback manner. To the extent that is practical, this environment is designed in as generic a manner as possible, thus accommodating a wide range of current and future M&S applications. Rather than create a specific set of tightly coupled simulations defining specific systems, the RDEC Federation is defining an environment to accommodate a host of current and future systems. This environment includes protocols and object models that support interfaces with Army M&S capabilities.

For evaluation purposes, a system might then be simulated in a virtual operational setting, as depicted in Figure 1. Operational experiments among (possibly distributed) simulations are not the only aspects of the RDEC Federation environment.

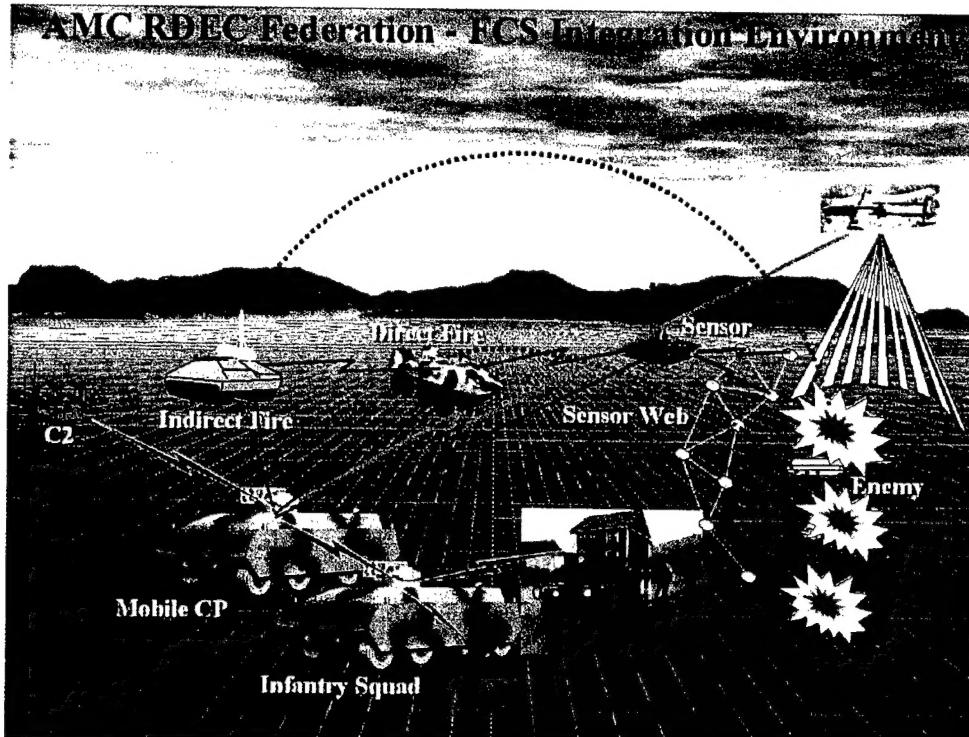


Figure 1. Concept Evaluation in an Operation Scenario.

The approach is to define the architecture as the interface protocols and objects and to allow compliant applications to join (and leave) the network as required. This approach is used by a number of important Department of Defense (DoD) programs, including the Virtual Proving Ground (VPG) [1], Test Enabling National Architecture (TENA) [2], and others. VPG and TENA are named explicitly because efforts to ensure a level of compatibility between these environments and the RDEC Federation are ongoing as it develops.

The philosophy of defining the interfaces and allowing simulations to join as needed augments the distributed simulation phenomenon that has been developed over the past couple decades. It is a natural progression from simulation network (SIMNET) to the establishment of the DIS standard, and culminating (so far) with the DoD high level architecture (HLA) standard [3,4,5]. In fact (concerning run time protocols), the current RDEC Federation version (as it was implemented during the SMART 2001 exercises) is a hybrid of DIS and HLA. The "Federation" portion of the RDEC Federation name is a direct application of the HLA Federation [6].

From a network architecture viewpoint, the important job is to standardize data objects and other specifics that define the interfaces. However, this aspect of the system may be of little importance to a VPG or RDEC Federation customer. The customer's interest chiefly concerns "what can the system do for me?" This translates to "what can the overall system simulate, and will this meet my needs?" Therefore, the customer is interested in the applications that are available. Current RDEC Federation applications are a diverse set of high fidelity virtual and constructive models and utilities operating in multiple force-on-force simulation environment. Depicted in Figure 2 is the RDEC Federation M&S environment capability used to exercise notional future combat system concepts demonstrated during the SMART 2001 conference 16-19 April 2001, Orlando, Florida.

Simulations and applications are depicted (without further explanation) as being attached to the DIS and/or HLA network¹. With a subset of these applications, various exercises involving future system concepts were used to demonstrate the RDEC Federation concept and its current capabilities during the conference.

¹Responsible U.S. Army agencies are listed below:

AMCOM – Aviation and Missile Command
CECOM – Communications Electronics Command
STRICOM - Simulation, Training & Instrumentation Command
TARDEC - Tank Automotive Research, Development, and Engineering Center
ARDEC – Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center
ARL – Army Research Laboratory.

(Note: ARL's ground systems test bed component is a VPG project being developed jointly with the Developmental Test Command [DTC].)

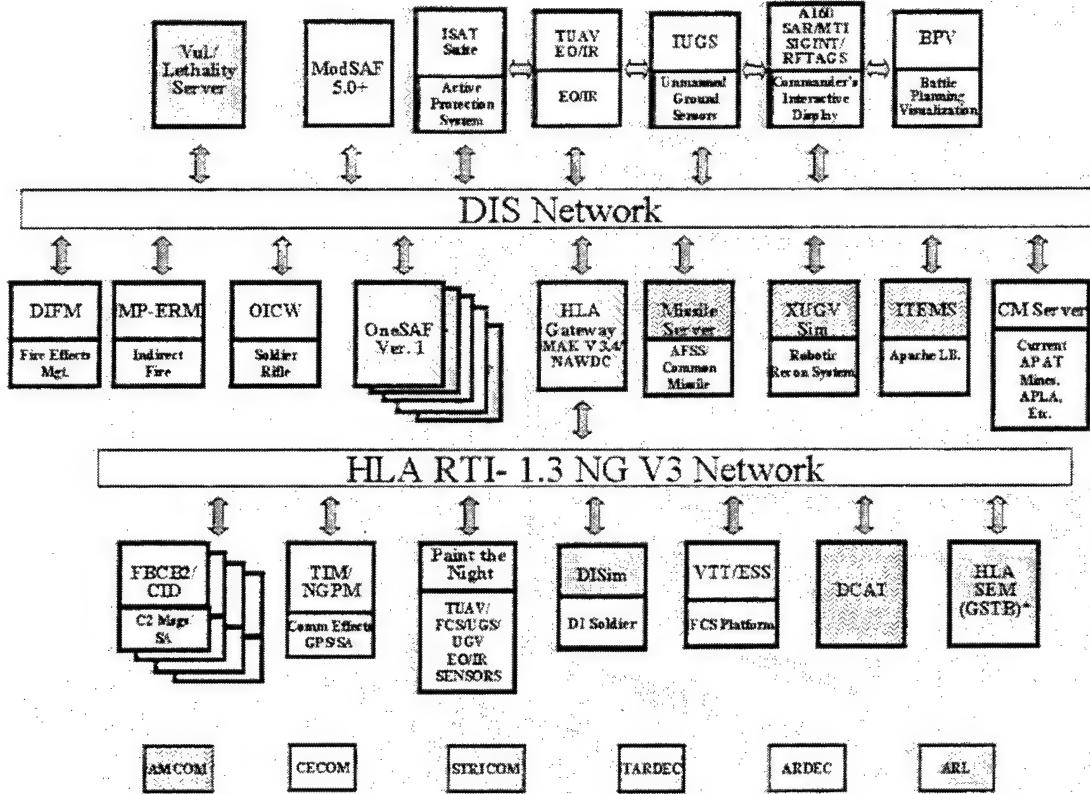


Figure 2. Current RDEC Federation Models and Simulations.

Figure 2 depicts the HLA/DIS run time components of the RDEC Federation at the time of the SMART conference. As explained in section 2.1 the Federation also has a static (pre-run time) integration component not displayed in Figure 2. This text is not intended to be a description of either component especially as they are still in development and their character and composition are expected to evolve with time. They have been presented here merely as a background and context from which to address the DIS Lethality Server.

3. The DIS Lethality Server

The component application that we are focusing on is the lethality server. The server is designed for the DIS environment. As such, the server connects on the DIS side of the RDEC Federation. The server is a combination of application program interface (API) libraries and utility programs that make it possible to allow multiple applications to access a single lethality data source. The server delivers pre-calculated lethality outcomes resulting from any combination of relevant parameters in near real time (on the order of 1/100th of a second), making it suitable for most real time and human-in-the-loop applications [7]. In this way, the server can be used to uncouple the damage calculation component from simulations in the distributed environment. However, since damaged results are normally pre-calculated (and stored in "look-up" tables) inside each

combat simulation, one may ask what advantage is there for a lethality server. The lethality server offers several advantages by de-coupling the damage component. These advantages (and some disadvantages) are outlined in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Some Advantages of a Lethality Server

Lethality Server Advantage Explained	
A-1	The server would have the potential to eliminate DIS interoperability variances in lethality outcomes (remove “unfair” weapons effects play), since all DIS simulations will resolve lethality effects through a single, repeatable means.
A-2	It would allow increased ease of verification, validation, and accreditation for battle simulations exercises as a result of having a standard (and centralized) set of unclassified lethality calculations.
A-3	It could decrease DIS simulation development time by providing a complete, computer platform-generic, vulnerability/lethality handling mechanism. That is, because the lethality issue has been decoupled from the rest of the simulation, the lethality handling mechanisms may be “stubbed out,” allowing more time to be devoted to the rest of the simulation development process.
A-4	Higher fidelity lethality results can be implemented with little modification of the way a simulation receives that information. The design of the current table look-up server contains a means whereby other results (that are not precalculated) could be implemented. That is, an application could use the same server interface to receive higher fidelity results if desired (calculated, for example, from a remote process). However, there is currently no implementation beyond precalculated look-up tables.
A-5	Using different damage descriptions (beyond just M,F,K) can be implemented with little modification of the way a simulation receives that information. In the current server design, there is a means to add different damage descriptions (such as less-than-lethal) mechanisms or completely different ways of dividing the lethality “space” [8]. The user manual walks through the steps taken to add a new lethality description [9].

In most combat simulations, lethality and vulnerability have to be implemented somewhere. It does not matter whether it is a first principle calculation or look-up table (based on first principles); either way, erroneous parameters, algorithms, or data sources could be misapplied.

While a centralized VL server has the advantage of “off-loading” the task, it can also off-load the responsibility and create the mistaken assumption that “somebody else” is going to take care of that aspect the process. Ensuring that the data are there and are being sought or calculated correctly must be part of the VL server’s implementation and management.

Table 2. Some Disadvantages of a Lethality Server

Disadvantage of a Lethality Server	
D-1	Client applications (and their operators and sponsors) will have to “trust” the results returned by the server. Errors may still occur in the data population or return of vulnerability results; since the server may not be under a developer’s direct configuration, the error can very well be more difficult to trace (or even detect).
D-2	Response to a VL query (and therefore simulation execution time) might be longer than without a server. Adding another software layer will almost never increase overall application speed, especially when network communications are a part of that added layer.
D-3	There is a danger of erroneous data because of a general lack of attention.

3.1 Disadvantages Addressed

3.1.1 D-1 Addressed

Certain enhancements can be added to the server to help avoid disadvantage D-1. Low-level “debugging” APIs are already implemented, which provide vulnerability parameter information (namely, `vlp_print_all_params()` [9, Appendix B, VLParam(3)]). In order for a remote client to “check the results,” this type of information needs to be distributed (provided by a client query as opposed to an API call). Other information should also be accessible. For example, if the result is derived from a look-up table, then the exact source of the table (location and file or record name) along with the algorithm used to obtain the results from that table should be available to the client.

While these enhancements are necessary for a client to scrutinize a lethality server’s vulnerability results, they are not sufficient. In the author’s opinion, sufficiency would only be approached once these enhancements are “packaged” in a separate tool complete with an intuitive, easily operated, graphical user interface (GUI).

3.1.2 D-2 Addressed

Accessing vulnerability data across a network will most certainly be slower than accessing locally (and inside a simulation). Applications that are highly time dependent or tightly coupled with other components that are faster than real time will need to seriously consider the time limitations of a distributed server. However, applications that are so tightly coupled may never be part of a distributed environment such as DIS or HLA. If they are, then the timing limitations may still be within their tolerance (the exact limitations are system dependent).

The server provides a means to be operated without using the network communications component. This is accomplished by calling VL (table look-up) API functions and linking them directly into one's application [7]. Of course, doing so removes all the advantages listed in Table 1. Still, this might be a consideration if the server has certain data look-up algorithms or its database is populated with certain data that an application requires. These may be applied without added software development or data maintenance overhead.

3.1.3 D-3 Addressed

This is largely a systemic issue as opposed to a technical question. Errors can enter into the process whether the VL calculation is conducted locally or on some remote server. Using a VL server can be more efficient because the VL configuration and management are done once per target-threat and do not have to be repeated among all participants.

However, it does not grant participants a license to forget about results. Some automated tools that allow quick "sanity checks" of VL results have already been suggested in the response to D-1.

4. Integration

This section addresses how the lethality server was integrated into the RDEC Federation exercises conducted during the SMART conference.

During normal operation, the DIS server is designed to work in a client/server mode as depicted in Figure 3. The intent is for simulations (or utilities) to act as "clients". These clients query for the results of a particular detonation or munitions impact. The server monitors the battlefield environment. It therefore knows who shot whom with what and can return the results of the detonation to the querying client. This assumes that the appropriate results have been loaded into the server's database ahead of time.

While the advantages listed in Table 1 are attractive, none of the other RDEC Federation applications were prepared to use the server during the SMART 2001 demonstration. Although VL client implementation is straightforward and basically involves only two fundamental API calls (`vls_send()` and `vls_receive()` to send a query and receive the answer, respectively), it does involve some programming and testing. None of the participants were able or prepared to implement this level of integration in time for SMART.

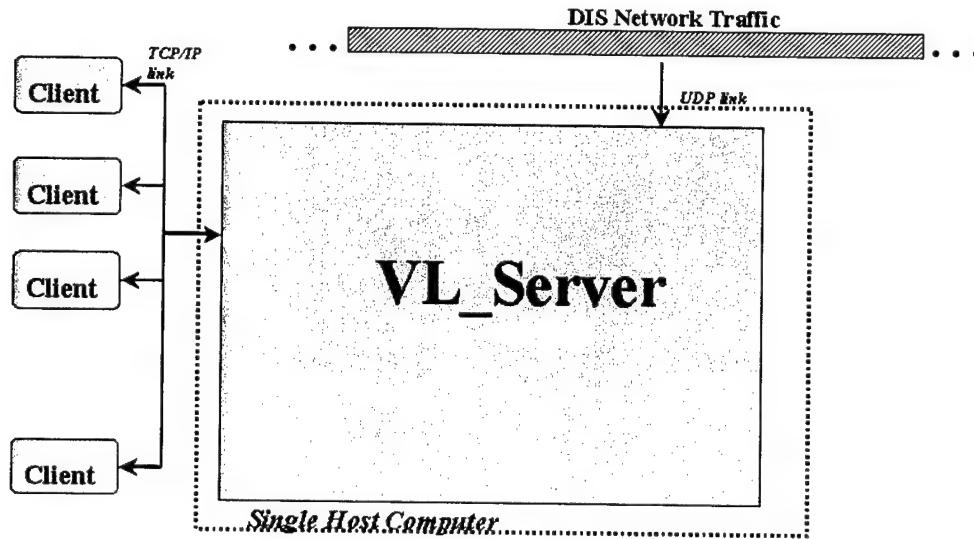


Figure 3. VL Server Design: Client Application's View.

Furthermore, during integration tests in preparation for the SMART exercise, it was decided to physically separate the two networks shown in Figure 2 (DIS and HLA networks). The reasons for this were because some HLA applications were not able to function properly as a result of the heavy amount of DIS traffic on the same network. The result was that HLA and DIS applications were unable to communicate with each other². However, since lethality server clients operate via other means (socket connections over a transmission control protocol/internet protocol link provided by the server's API), no HLA application could communicate with the server since it was on the DIS sub-network. This had no impact on the server's role during the SMART tests since the server was basically in a monitoring role and its only client application was the Java® Client that resided on the DIS network (see Section 6).

²Except via the HLA/DIS bridge seen as the "HLA Gateway" in Figure 2.

5. Recent Changes in the Lethality Server

In its monitoring role, the server comes equipped with an application that monitors the DIS environment and pays special attention to lethality-dependent information (who shot whom with what and the conditions at the time). This application is called the DIS monitor. The DIS monitor's place within the overall lethality server architecture is depicted in Figure 4.

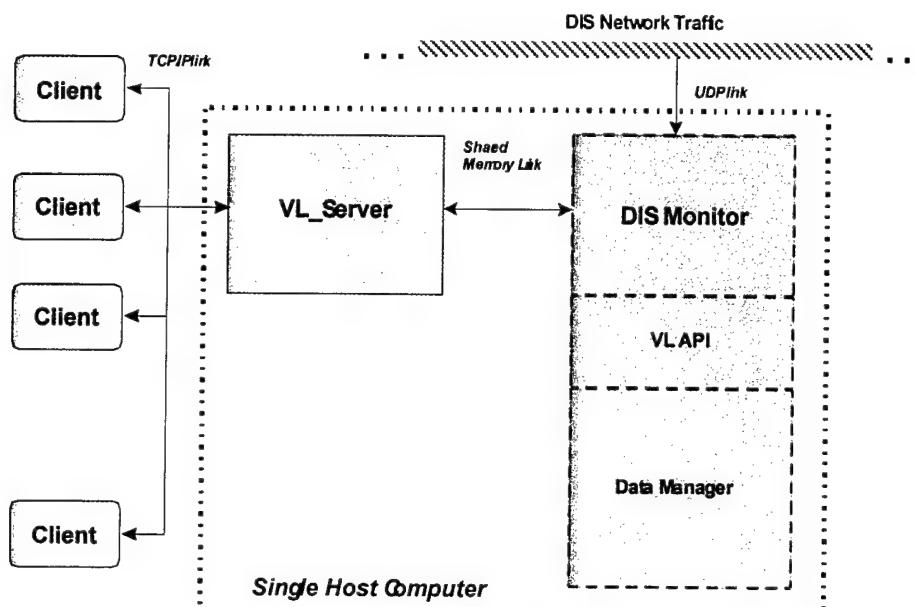


Figure 4. DIS Monitor Component of the VL Server.

Because the DIS monitor "knows about who shot whom with what and when," it can use the VL API to service lethality look-up table lethality results and supply them to the VL_Server. This is how the VL_Server supplies results to clients. The VL_Server does not actually do any calculating; it merely passes queries (to some destination; in this case, the DIS monitor) and returns the results.

Another capability the DIS monitor has is its ability to display some of its real-time "knowledge" of the battlefield state through interactive screen reports. Figure 5 shows a screen capture of one of these reports (the Standard Entity Damage State report). Each row of this report displays the state of a single entity. Since the DIS monitor is only monitoring the battlefield and is not affecting it, the state information displayed shows the damage state as reported by each entity. This is not necessarily the damage as calculated by the VL server, since the entity may not have queried the server but calculated its own damage in some manner. The Damage State report columns are explained in Table 3.

To support the SMART exercises, additional data items were added to the DIS monitor's items of interest. These items tracked how often and when the last update occurred from each entity. Therefore, these data could be applied as a basic simulation environment monitor. The newly tracked data shown are in Table 4. These data were then used to create a new report the "Entity Heartbeat Update," as seen in Figure 6. Table 5 defines the data in the "Entity Heartbeat Update" report.

dis_mon														
tracking 243 Entities in Exercise 1														
Thu Sep 13 10:31:54 EDT 2001			--Entity--				--KILL--		Damage		Smoke		Times	
Frc	ID	Type	Mobil	FireP	Slight	Modrt	Dstryd	Plm	Eng	PlmEng	Hit			
1	1167	"MRAS"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1086	"RAVE_Mortar"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1180	unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1019	"IUGS_IR"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	33	"DI_Dobs_Post"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1001	"M1 Abrams"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1016	"IUGS_IR"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1031	"A160"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1012	"IUGS_SA"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1108	"RAVE_TT_MCU"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1025	"IUGS_IR"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	2	"Advanced Field"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	16384	"DI_M16A2"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	6	"McDonnell-Doug"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1105	"RAVE_BLOS"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1	1110	"RAVE_Recon"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
2	1267	"BMP-2"	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1240	"BMP-2"	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1150	"T-80 MBT"	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
2	1001	"2S6 Quad 30-mm"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
2	1151	"T-80 MBT"	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1258	"BMP-2"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
2	1265	"BMP-2"	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1245	"BMP-2"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
2	1152	"T-80 MBT"	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1302	"BMP-2"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
2	10	"T-80 MBT"	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1268	"BMP-2"	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1178	"T-80 MBT"	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1276	"BMP-2"	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
2	1249	"BMP-2"	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0			
FRIENDLY (Force ID 1) (blue)			FOES (Force ID 2) (red)											
KKilled	0		11											
MKilled	0		1											
FKilled	0		1											
MFKilled	0		2											
 Rollup.out														

Figure 5. Standard Damage Entity State Report.

Since the Standard Damage Status Report (see Figure 5) does not track how (or what caused) the damage, a supplemental report was added: the Damage Source Report (see Figure 7). This report did not require additional internal data fields to

be added to the DIS Monitor—just the report page. The fields for this report are explained in Table 6.

Table 3. Dis_Mon: Entity State Report Key (from Figure 5)

Column	Meaning
Entity	
Frc	This is the “Force” identification of an entity (whose “side” an entity is on during a battle). Data in this field come from the “Force ID Field” of the “Entity State PDU” (protocol data unit). Valid Force IDs are 0 = Other 1 = Friendly 2 = Foe 3 = Neutral
ID	This is the Entity ID Field portion of the PDU’s Entity Identifier Record (a three-integer record). These three integers represent the simulated entity’s SITE, HOST, and APPLICATION. Their combination uniquely identifies an entity [4, Section 5.3.14.2 “Entity Identifier”]. The “ID” integer in this column is actually only last of the three 16-bit unsigned integers (“APPLICATION”).
Type	This column reports the name of the entity type. The entity type is a numeric value defined in the Entity Type Record (of the Entity State PDU). The name seen in this column is the text name associated with that numeric entity type ID. The text name comes from the VL Data Manager initialization file’s “DIS_ENTITIES_FILE” record [9, vls_db_init(5)].
KILL	
Mobil	Bool: Set to true (1) if entity is mobility killed
FireP	Bool: Set to true (1) if entity is fire power killed
Damage	Slight Bool: Set to true (1) if entity is slightly damaged
Modrt	Bool: Set to true (1) if entity is moderately damaged.
Dstryd	Bool: Set to true (1) if entity is destroyed.
Smoke	
Plm	Bool: Smoke plume is rising from the entity.
Eng	Bool: Entity is emitting engine smoke.
PlmEng	Bool: Entity is emitting engine smoke and smoke plume is rising from the entity.
Times Hit	This field displays the number of times that dis_mon saw the entity “hit” by a munition. This is a derived number and does not appear in the Entity State PDU ³ .

³Note, Figure 6 shows zero hits under the “Times Hit” tally because (in this instance) dis_mon started monitoring the simulation after the hits occurred. Thus, the actual damage-causing detonations were never observed (and thus the number of hits were untallied and are unknown). What is known is the published damage state, as updated by the entity and reflected in “Entity

Table 4. Simulation Environment Information Recently Added to the DIS Monitor

Data Item	Description	Purpose
T_Last	Time since last entity state update was seen. This is monitored for each entity on the virtual battlefield.	Used to monitor for client inactivity (and possible time-out). <u>Displayed in:</u> "Time Since Last PDU" column of "Live Exercise Status Updates" report. – Figure 6
Entity State PDU Count	The total number of state updates broadcast by an entity. This is monitored for each entity on the virtual battlefield.	May identify sources of heaviest network activity. Certain entities by virtue of their mission (e.g., a moving versus a stationary entity) may produce orders of magnitudes more network data than others. <u>Displayed in:</u> "COUNT ES PDUs" report column (see Figure 6).
EntityID	Displays three integers representing the controlling entity's Site (location), Host (computer), and Application (program or simulation).	It is often useful to identify the originating computer system or application from simulation entities. In particular, when those entities are displaying "misbehavior" or are not intended to be a participant in the current exercise ⁴ . <u>Displayed in:</u> "SITE HOST APP" report column (see Figure 6).

⁴It is the responsibility of the DIS application to fill these fields before updates are published. However, a problem arises in identifying the source of these PDU updates since by definition, the application may be "rogue" (running out of control) and therefore may not be filling these fields with the proper data. (This actually happened during the pre-SMART conference integration tests at STRICOM.) An enhanced identifier scheme would also track the originated IP address from the user datagram protocol header field. However, this would require some modifications in order to pull these data from the Muss, Kennedy, Clark, and Kingston (the pkglib) libraries; time did not allow this.

tracking 243 Entities in Exercise 1									
-Entity-				---TIME-(sec)-			-COUNT--		
Frc	ID	Type	Marking	DIS Enumeration	Since Last PDU	ES PDUs	SITE	HOST	APP
1	1157	"MRAS"	100814"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	31.293407	82	10	2	1167
1	1090	"MRAS"	100021"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	31.963518	71	10	2	1090
1	1197	"MRAS"	100812"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	32.43489	77	10	2	1197
1	1208	"MRAS"	100911"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	31.173603	76	10	2	1208
1	3034	"AGM114L"	ITEMS"	(2,2,225,1,3,5,2)	88.273417	21	10	61	3034
1	3037	"AGM114K"	ITEMS"	(2,2,225,1,3,5,1)	40.563576	80	10	61	3037
1	1193	"MRAS"	100912"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	31.923411	64	10	2	1193
1	1203	"MRAS"	100914"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	31.903468	74	10	2	1203
1	1192	"MRAS"	100811"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	31.883564	85	10	2	1192
1	1188	"MRAS"	100913"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	31.113591	75	10	2	1188
1	1182	"MRAS"	100813"	(1,1,225,4,8,1,0)	31.373299	79	10	2	1182
1	1129	Unknown	100814"	(1,1,225,6,1,30,3)	33.463511	2	10	2	1129
1	1175	Unknown	100841"	(3,1,225,1,81,1,0)	35.623369	5	10	2	1175
1	3035	"AGM114L"	ITEMS"	(2,2,225,1,3,5,2)	73.653513	15	10	61	3035
1	1186	"DI_Rifle"	100832"	(3,1,225,1,32,1,1)	34.633363	12	10	2	1186
1	1229	"DI_Rifle"	100842"	(3,1,225,1,32,1,1)	46.3540	3	10	2	1229
1	1187	Unknown	100831"	(3,1,225,1,81,1,0)	49.883611	8	10	2	1187
1	1230	Unknown	100941"	(3,1,225,1,81,1,0)	45.473564	14	10	2	1230
1	1174	"DI_Rifle"	100842"	(3,1,225,1,32,1,1)	35.613450	24	10	2	1174
1	1179	"DI_Rifle"	100932"	(3,1,225,1,32,1,1)	34.213533	14	10	2	1179
1	1086	"RAVE_Mortar"	100961"	(1,1,225,3,21,7,0)	107.133084	2	10	2	1086
1	1180	Unknown	100831"	(3,1,225,1,81,1,0)	54.173388	3	10	2	1180
1	1016	"IUGS_IR"	100512"	(5,1,0,1,9,3,0)	65.483543	10	88	1015	
1	1019	"IUGS_IR"	100512"	(5,1,0,1,9,3,0)	66.323370	10	98	1019	
1	1106	"RAVE_BLOS"	100041"	(1,1,225,4,21,4,0)	68.833553	10	2	1106	
1	33	"DI_Dobs_Post"	COLT39"	(3,1,225,2,0,0,0)	65.183472	28	135	33	
1	1001	"M1 Abrams"	firebird"	(1,1,225,1,1,1,0)	31.412326	10	91	1001	
1	1188	"RAVE_TT_MCU"	100821"	(1,1,225,4,8,3,2)	38.453415	10	2	1188	
1	1116	"RAVE_BLOS"	100G12"	(1,1,225,4,21,4,0)	60.803474	10	2	1116	
1	1031	"R160"	R160"	(1,2,225,50,20,0,0)	42.303434	10	98	1031	
1	1113	"RAVE_BLOS"	100H12"	(1,1,225,4,21,4,0)	60.543513	10	2	1113	
1	2	Advanced Field	2/1/C/2 /4"	(1,1,225,4,9,0,0)	59.863123	2	28	135	2
1	16384	"DI_M16A2"	ARL_D101"	(3,1,225,1,32,1,0)	42.203378	4	10	44	16384
1	6	McDonnell-Douglas	AH64db"	(1,2,225,20,1,4,0)	54.853538	2	10	61	6
1	1189	"RAVE_TT_MCU"	100A22"	(1,1,225,4,8,3,2)	34.313503	4	10	2	1189
1	1105	"RAVE_BLOS"	100B51"	(1,1,225,4,21,4,0)	102.643517	2	10	2	1105
1	1107	"RAVE_TT_MCU"	100032"	(1,1,225,4,8,3,2)	57.103442	10	2	1107	
1	3	Advanced Field	3/1/C/2 /4"	(1,1,225,4,9,0,0)	57.543148	2	28	135	3
1	1089	"RAVE_Mortar"	100862"	(1,1,225,3,21,7,0)	58.313281	2	10	2	1089
1	1114	"RAVE_BLOS"	100H13"	(1,1,225,4,21,4,0)	50.663526	2	10	2	1114

Figure 6. Entity Heartbeat Update (shows the time since the latest entity update was received and origin of the update).

/ Listening...									
PDU seen: 2994									
tracking 239 Entities in Exercise 1									
-Detonation-									
-Event--ID-----Firing_Entity_Type-----Target_Type-----Munition_Type-----Type of -									

10	2	220	[<none>]	[<none>]	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	221	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	222	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	223	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	224	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	225	[<none>]	[<none>]	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	226	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	227	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	228	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	229	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	230	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	3 ("Ground Imp")	
10	2	231	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	0 (" Other")	
10	2	232	[<none>]	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	[<none>]	[<none>]	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	0 (" Other")	
10	61	68	(1,2,225,20,1,4,0)	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	(2,8,222,2,2,2,2)	0 (" Other")	(2,2,225,1,3,5,2)	1 ("Entity Imp")	
10	61	76	(1,2,225,20,1,4,0)	(1,1,222,2,2,1,0)	(2,2,225,1,3,5,2)	0 (" Other")			

Figure 7. Damage Source Report (who shot whom with what).

Table 5. Dis_Mon: "Entity Heartbeat Update" Report Key (from Figure 6)

Column	Meaning
Entity	
Frc	This is the "Force" identification of an entity (whose "side" an entity is on during a battle). Data in this field come from the "Force ID Field" of the "Entity State PDU." Valid Force IDs are 0 = Other 1 = Friendly 2 = Foe 3 = Neutral
ID	This is the Entity ID Field portion of the PDU's Entity Identifier Record. It is actually only the last of the three 16-bit unsigned integers (SITE, HOST, APP) that identify an entity instance in a DIS exercise. See (SITE, HOST, APP) column in this table [4, Section 5.3.14.2, "Entity Identifier"].
Type	This column reports the name of the entity type. The entity type is a numeric value defined in the Entity Type Record (of the Entity State PDU). The name seen in this column is the text name associated with that numeric entity type ID. The text name comes from the VL Data Manager initialization file's "DIS_ENTITIES_FILE" record [9, vls_db_init(5)].
Marking	Sometimes known as the "bumper number" because it is often informally used to denote the unit designation on vehicles (such as tanks). In terms of the DIS standard, it is the "Entity Marking Field" as published by the issuing application [4, Section 5.3.15 "Entity Marking Record"].
DIS Enumeration	These seven numbers represent the entity type record. The digits represent the subfields "kind," "domain," "country," "category," "subcategory," "specific," and "extra" as defined in the DIS standard [4, Section 5.3.16 "Entity Type Record"]. Their exact interpretation depends on the enumeration standard used [5] with modifications conventional to the current exercise.
TIME Since Last PDU	This field shows the time (in seconds) since the DIS monitor last detected a state update (an Entity State PDU) from the entity.
COUNT ES PDUs	The number in this field represents the total updates (Entity State PDUs) detected for the given entity. Certain entities may issue updates at a greater rate, depending on their actions (for instance, if they are moving [many state changes] versus if they are stationary).
SITE	Together, these three columns represent and identify an entity's unique instance in a DIS exercise. Each entity on the virtual battlefield has a unique "Entity Identifier" record.
HOST	SITE usually denotes a physical location or facility; HOST identifies the host computer system; and APP usually identifies an application that is simulating the entity.
APP	[4, Section 5.3.14.2 "Entity Identifier" record]

Table 6. Dis_Mon: "Damage Source Report" Report Key (from Figure 7)

Column	Meaning
Event ID	Together, the three integers in this column represent and uniquely identify the detonation event. Each time a "fire" or "detonation" event occurs on the virtual battlefield, an Event identifier is issued to identify that event. Sometimes (as is the case with some explosions such as a demolition charge) only a detonation event is issued. Other times, there is a "fire" event associated with a detonation event (such as an artillery munition launched [the "fire"] and its impact [the "detonation"]). When fire and detonation events are related, they have the same "Event ID" [4, Section 5.3.18 "Event Identifier" record].
Firing Entity Type	These seven numbers represent the entity type record that identifies the munition that has detonated (or impacted). The digits represent the subfields "kind," "domain," "country," "category," "subcategory," "specific," and "extra" as defined in the DIS standard [4, Section 5.3.16 "Entity Type Record"]. Their exact interpretation depends on the enumeration standard used [5] with modifications conventional to the current exercise. For instance (1,1,222,2,2,1,0) represents a Russian "BMP-2".
Target Type	This field is the "Entity Type" enumeration for the type of entity that was targeted by the shooting entity. If the firing entity did not specify a target, then "<none>" appears.
Munition Type	The "Entity Type" enumeration of the munition used is entered here.
Type of Detonation	This field specifies an 8-bit unsigned integer. This number is the DIS enumeration describing what kind of detonation occurred. The enumeration as filled by the detonation issuing simulation and a text interpretation of its value is shown. For instance, "3" represents a "Ground Impact" [4, Section 5.4.4.2 , Detonation PDU (10) Detonation Result].

6. Java® Client Application

A simple Java® client was added to the server for the SMART conference. This client application has access to the usual set of queries available to other VL server clients. It also allows access to a versatile GUI API (the Java® graphic environment objects) and allows a platform-independent means to present information that is better explained graphically. For instance, Figure 8 shows that the Java® client employs the "JTable" object from the Java® Swing Toolkit to display a variation of the "Damage Source Report" (see Figure 7).

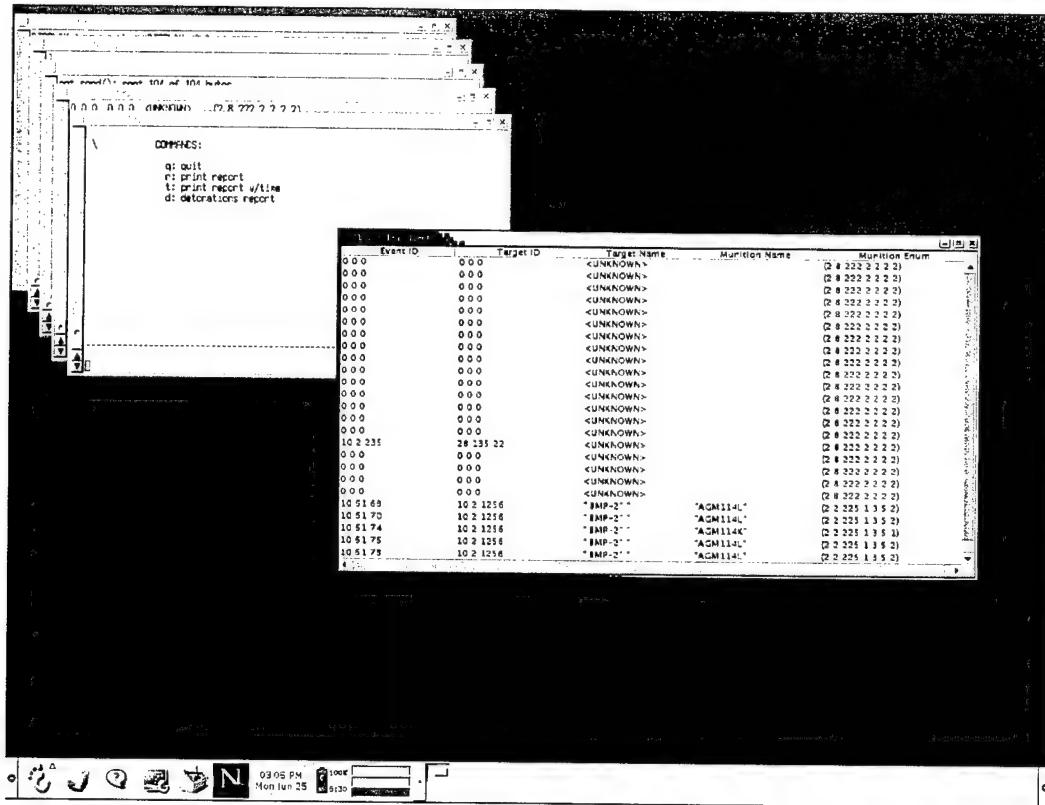


Figure 8. Simple Java® Client Detonation Report Table

The Swing Toolkit is part of the standard Java® Development Kit distributed by Sun Microsystems and contains a wide variety of objects each of which carries a rich set of features. "JTable" object has a wide variety of programmed methods that allow the user to "drag" and re-arrange the displayed columns with a mouse. Additional methods can be added by attaching newly created procedures to mouse and keyboard events. For example, Figure 9 displays an added procedure that is the result of selecting ("clicking") a detonation event of particular interest. In this case, detonation event "10 61 68" was selected (and highlighted). The result is the graphical representation of the mobility-firepower-catastrophic probability distributions, based on the initial conditions associated with that event. (This graphic representation is a bar chart on a scale from 0 to 1 that displays the likelihood that each of the five possible outcomes can occur (M-Kill, F-Kill, both M and F Kills, K-Kill, and no additional damage). This could prove useful when a questionable result is occurring during an exercise. By means of a few mouse clicks, the outcome likelihood can very quickly be "seen".

Other tasks and items can be added to the Java[®] Client in a similar manner. These can then be attached to buttons, pull-down menus, and other objects. Of course, this will take some work, but some of the possible utilities have already become apparent (see "Future Enhancements").

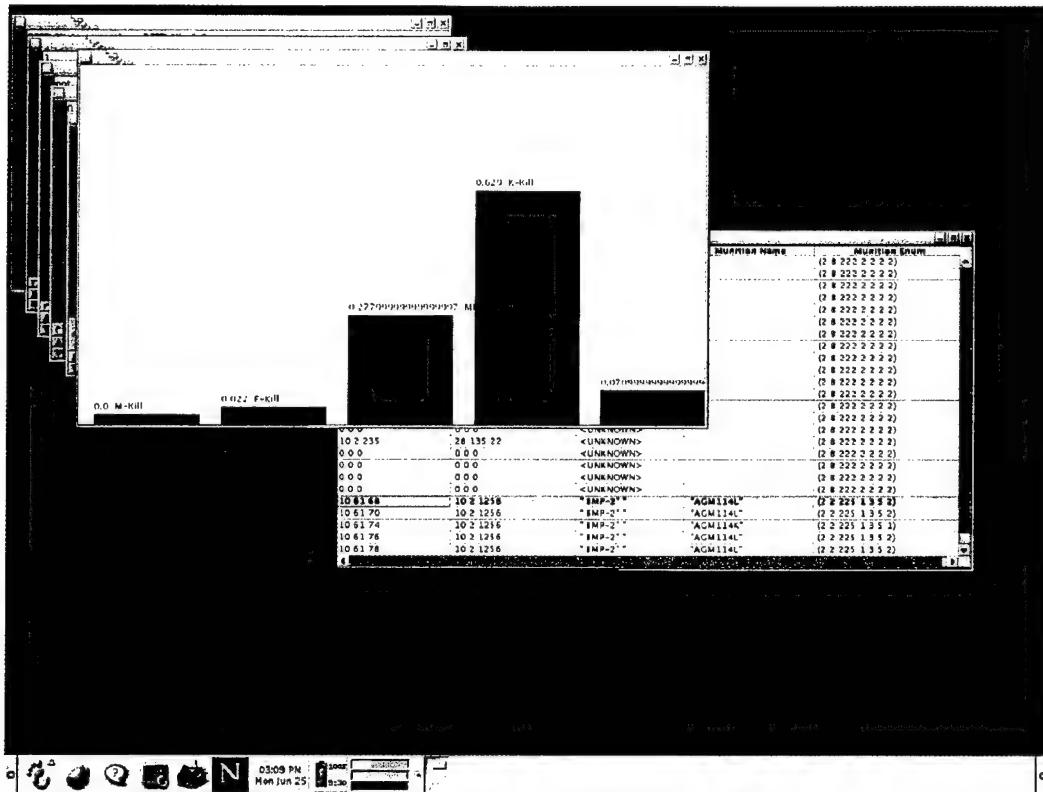


Figure 9. Graphical Display of Mobility-Firepower-Catastrophic Probability Distribution for the Selected Impact Event.

7. Lessons Learned and Possible Future Enhancements

Operating the look-up table lethality server during the SMART conference exercises provided valuable insights in terms of lessons learned and insights into the most optimal path for future improvements. Lessons learned are highlighted in this section.

The server sustained performance very well against heavy data traffic. One particularly encouraging result from the exercises was the lethality server's ability to sustain performance well under heavy network data traffic. Some of the battle scenarios ran for several hours and involved hundreds of entities that produced millions of data packets over the course of the simulation. The server had no difficulties in processing this load. The components within the server that are responsible for reading DIS network traffic are the ARL DIS manager⁵. The DIS manager processed and logged all the data packets. These packets were in turn passed to the component of the lethality server responsible for monitoring

⁵The DIS manager reads and supplies DIS data to client applications. It also logs the PDUs and comes with a number of utilities (such as "Playback," a tool to replay logged DIS traffic) [8, 9].

the battlefield (the DIS monitor). Figure 4 is further detailed in Figure 10 to display the DIS manager's placement in the server's architecture.

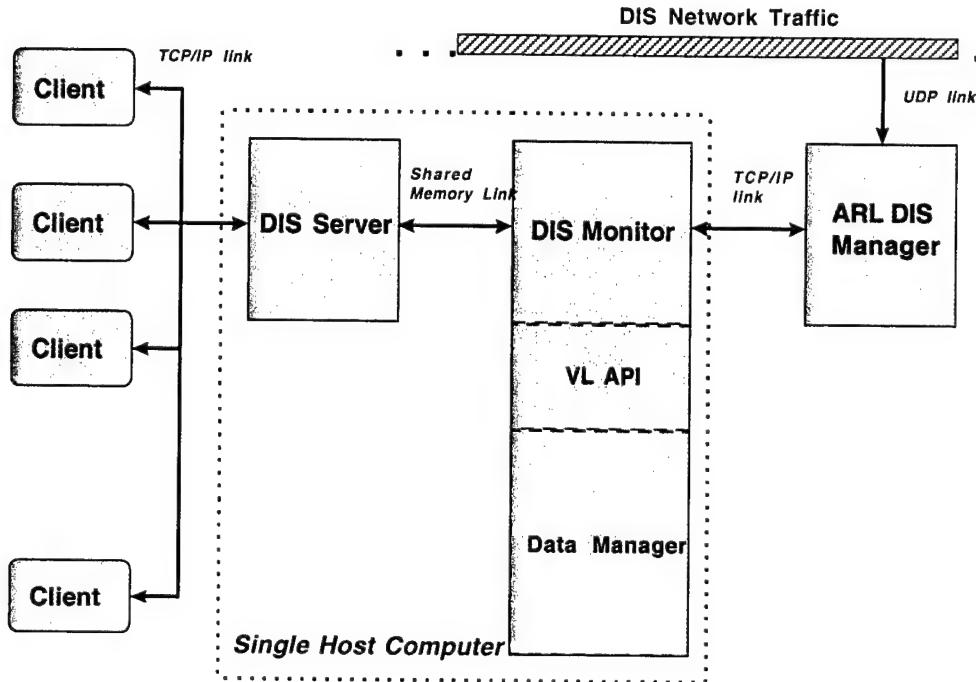


Figure 10. Another, More Detailed View of the Lethality Server's Organization.

Only certain data packets are of interest to the lethality server (these packets represented state changes, fire and detonation events). Other packets were logged but filtered and not passed to the DIS monitor. However, those packets that were passed represented the vast majority of data packets.

Unfortunately, data flow (to clients) fell on the other end of the spectrum in terms of stress testing. This is because none of the other RDEC Federation participating applications and simulations were prepared to use the lethality server in time for the SMART Conference exercises. Only two clients were attached at any one time (and these were merely utility clients that come as part of the lethality server suite: a simple text-based interactive client and the Java® client).

In summary, both the DIS monitor and DIS manager sustained performance with excellence in processing a heavy data inflow. However outflow data volume (a flood of queries) was not sufficiently tested.

Quick analysis was at times cumbersome. For the existing tools, improved interfaces need to be tailored to better access the available information. The server was able to use its simulation monitoring capabilities, but their usefulness

could have been improved with supporting search tools and GUIs. Several times during integration tests, the need arose to determine the state of a particular vehicle or entity or to replay a portion of the exercise for closer examination. The data logging by the DIS manager captures DIS data packets (called PDUs) into a single sequential large binary file. With a playback utility, these PDUs may be replayed at various speeds. However, there is no efficient interface that allows the PDUs to be searched and browsed.

The DIS monitor logs items of interest (fire events, detonations, the munitions used, intended targets, etc.) into its own separate flat sequential text file. However, these data are of select material, which is good as long as all questions are contained within that material. However, all manner of questions cannot be anticipated ahead of time. For example, one particular question arose, "Why didn't *this* munition destroy *that* vehicle?" It became cumbersome in the heat of the moment to manually examine this text log to resolve the issue⁶. While sufficient for post-process review, this flat file of selected material was an inefficient means to quickly search for events related to various entities.

While all information is being captured, it should be better entered in a database (or at least be exportable in extensible markup language to be read by a dedicated database management system).

In summary, the data from all events, including special events (such as detonations), should be logged into a tool more suited for analysis (such as a real database). The two logs files (from the DIS monitor and DIS manager) should be more tightly correlated or even be one and the same, thus allowing all manner of questions to be resolved in a timely manner. The DIS manager's mission playback capabilities could be enhanced by the addition of bookmark, search, and browse capabilities. Currently, the DIS manager's playback can only "play" (or play in a "fast forward" mode). Playback could be enhanced to include the other standard "VCR-like" features: rewind, reverse, and pause. This should further be made useful by wrapping all these features into a familiar looking intuitive and user friendly GUI.

7.1 Improving the Lethality Server's Ease of Integration (into combat models)

Currently, client applications connect to the DIS look-up table lethality server via the server-supplied library of APIs. A small but necessary set of APIs is required in order to query the server: `vls_open()`, `vls_close()`, `vls_send()`, and `vls_read()`. Client applications send text queries to the server via the `vls_send()` API and

⁶Eventually, the issue was resolved. It was discovered that the vehicle never left its line of departure and thus stayed out of "harm's way". Therefore, while many other systems were damaged, this one vehicle remained unscathed. Part of the problem stemmed from determining which entity was "that vehicle"; another was searching for the lethality server results for detonations against "that vehicle," of which, there were none.

retrieve the results by the vls_read() function. By integrating the functionality of these APIs into an HLA simulation object model, client applications will no longer have to link the server's APIs directly into their applications. This would lower "integration risks" from the client's viewpoint. Furthermore, it is anticipated that future expansion of RDEC Federation applications (and new applications) will tend toward HLA instead of the DIS standard.

In summary, the lethality server's functionality should migrate to HLA. Because the RDEC reference federation object model (FOM) is currently in flux, that migration should be executed in as flexible a manner as is practical. An HLA "middleware" approach could aid here, provided that it also has a flexible FOM design⁷.

7.2 Need to Explore Alternate Lethality Table Referencing Methods

A shortcut method may be necessary to refer to lethality look-up tables. Currently, the lethality server is initialized with a look-up table for *each* possible combination of munition and target. However, this leads to table references that grow at a rapid rate (NxM). For instance, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers DIS enumeration standard supported by the server contains enumerations for more than 5,000 separate entities and 1,000 munitions. This produces more than 5 million table references.

The size is only one aspect to consider. This is an internal implementation consideration, but reducing memory requirements could enhance performance and portability. Currently, look-up table references are stored in internal memory. If each table reference can be restricted to 100 characters, this would still require about 500 megabytes of random access memory to store⁸. Ways of reducing this internal memory requirement could be explored. In practice, this has not been a problem since all entity and munition types have never appeared in a single exercise. The largest SMART conference scenarios had hundreds of entities. However, this required only ~50 entity and 25 munition types. Still, this produced more than 1,000 references, which proved at times too complicated to manage within a flat data file.

Managing look-up table references could be vastly improved by adding a tool. This GUI control station for the server would oversee the server's operator configuration and management. It could check for errors and replications during the lethality data population phase. Default settings (for the case when no VL data are available) could be implemented.

⁷FOM flexibility (or neutrality) refers to the degree to which an application can use any number of FOMs. A FOM neutral application is not "hard coded" to any particular FOM and thus can be readily adapted when FOM changes are made.

⁸One hundred characters times 5 million table references or about 500 million characters.

8. “On-the-fly” Verification and Error Checking

Support functions could be added to provide timely and interactive responses during live simulation exercises. The live exercise environment at the SMART conference stressed the need for real-time feedback and results checking. Table 7 identifies enhancements to support live exercise feedback and error checking.

Table 7. Live Exercise Support Functions

Function	Explanation
Display initial conditions	Display VL parameters that were part of the calculation of the lethality results.
Display damage source reference	Display information that identifies the reference that points to the damage source (the look-up table reference or other information that describes where the lethality data can be found) (i.e., display where the look-up table was found for a particular threat and munition).
Display the damage source	View the look-up table (or other vulnerability source data) (i.e., browse/view the data as opposed to where the data originated).
Entity Alert	Warns operator of a newly discovered entity for which there is no known vulnerability reference (i.e., no damage look-up table).
Munition Alert	Warns operator of a newly discovered entity for which there is no known vulnerability reference (i.e., “no damage look-up table was found”).

Currently, almost all these enhancements are accessible by some means. That is, lethality server APIs already exist that include “debugging” print statements that can be “turned on” to examine how the server derived some result in as excruciating detail as is deemed necessary. However, this type of analysis is more suited for the controlled laboratory environment. To make some of these features readily available for immediate turn-around live analysis, these APIs need to be applied within the server, and their output must be presented in a usable manner. In some cases, new APIs will have to be added or old ones modified. Once applied within the server, the server and client interface libraries need to be modified to query and return the results of these new services. Finally, a GUI (such as the Java® client application) has to be modified or created to implement these functions and present the results in an intuitive and user-friendly fashion.

9. Summary

The RDEC Federation is a project that is bringing together many Army simulation assets for the purpose evaluating future concepts on a distributed virtual battlefield. It is a logical continuation and extension of the DoD's M&S distributed simulation research and capabilities.

The lethality server proved reliable in a live exercise with heavy data flows received; however, one of its primary design features (providing lethality results for all exercise participants) was not fully verified.

The SMART Conference provided the opportunity to conduct live trials on various additions to the server suite (such as the Java® client) and provide insights for improvements. Most of these improvements support the server's primary role of providing accurate and timely vulnerability results. Other improvements support the live exercise and distributed environment to a higher degree.

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APPENDIX A
PHOTOS OF SIMULATION TESTING

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PHOTOS OF SIMULATION TESTING

For historical purpose, the author gratefully acknowledges Oanh Tran of the Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM) for these and other excellent photos.

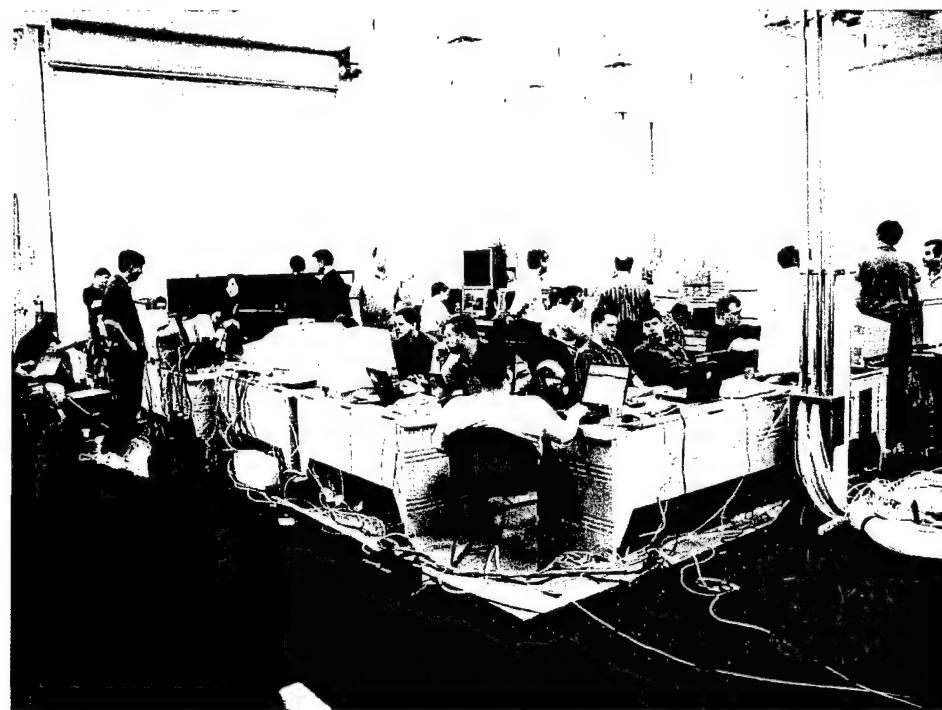


Figure A-1. RDEC Federation Integration Testing at STRICOM One Week Before the SMART Conference.



Figure A-2. On-lookers Observe a Live Exercise During the SMART Conference.



Figure A-3. During the Conference, Mr. Micheal Kelly (Night Vision Laboratory) Briefs Mr. Hollis Deputy Under Secretary of the Army (Operations Research), Dr. Bucher, AMCOM, Mr. Pei, CECOM, and Others.



Figure A-4. Selected Panoramic View 1 of the RDEC Federation During Conference Exercises.



Figure A-5. Selected Panoramic View 2 of the RDEC Federation During Conference Exercises.



Figure A-6. Selected Panoramic View 3 of the RDEC Federation During Conference Exercises.



Figure A-7. ARL-VPG Participants Left to Right: Gary Moss, Geoff Sauerborn, Mark Thomas.



Figure A-8. RDEC Federation Participants Group Photo.

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1	DIRECTOR US ARMY RSCH LABORATORY ATTN AMSRL CI AI R REC MGMT 2800 POWDER MILL RD ADELPHI MD 20783-1197	1	US ARMY NATICK RDEC ACTING TECHNICAL DIR ATTN SSCNC T P BRANDLER NATICK MA 01760-5002
1	DIRECTOR US ARMY RSCH LABORATORY ATTN AMSRL CI LL TECH LIB 2800 POWDER MILL RD ADELPHI MD 20783-1197	1	US ARMY RSCH OFC 4300 S MIAMI BLVD RSCH TRIANGLE PK NC 27709
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